

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05523 240656Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 ACDA-12 SMS-01 /092 W  
-----093074 241115Z /12

R 240639Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8045  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, GE, CZ  
SUBJECT: GDR OBSERVATION OF TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
CZECH INVASION

REF: PRAGUE 2217

1. THE EAST GERMAN MEDIA HAVE STAUNCHLY DEFENDED  
THE 1968 INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. EAST BERLIN  
PAPERS ALL CARRIED LONG EDITORIALS ON AUGUST 21  
STRESSING THE SAME THEMES: CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968  
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WAS THREATENED BY COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY FORCES FROM  
WITHIN AND IMPERIALIST FORCES FROM WITHOUT,  
PARTICULARLY THE US AND THE FRG. THE INVASION DEFENDED  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SOCIALISM AND PEACE IN EUROPE AND  
LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR CSCE.

2. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND'S EDITORIAL "AN ACTION FOR

PEACE, USEFUL FOR ALL PEOPLE" IS TYPICAL. IT ARGUES THAT IN 1968 THE WEST CAMPAIGNED AGAINST SOCIALISM WITH "COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY CONCEPTIONS SUCH AS THE SO-CALLED HUMANE SOCIALISM" WHICH WERE TAKEN UP BY "COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY AND REVISIONIST FORCES DIRECTLY SUPPORTED FROM THE USA AND THE FRG". THE EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT UNDER THE SLOGAN OF "IMPROVING SOCIALISM" A CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED TO LIQUIDATE SOCIALISM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, PROMPTING LOYAL COMMUNISTS AND WORKERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO REQUEST HELP FROM BROTHER SOCIALIST STATES AGAINST "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY, ANTI-PEACE ATTACKS", THUS DEFEATING THE US "ROLLBACK" POLICY. IN THIS CONTEXT ARE CITED ALLEGED PLANNED US 7TH ARMY AND BUNDESWEHR MANEUVERS IN SEPTEMBER 1968. THE EDITORIAL SHARPLY CRITICIZES "ANTI-COMMUNIST HYSTERIA OF THE SUMMER OF 1968" WHICH IS BEING "RE-WARMED" TODAY. THESE EFFORTS ARE ALLEGED TO REFLECT CONTINUING IMPERIALIST HOPES TO INTERFERE WITH SOCIALISM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND TO RESURRECT THE COLD WAR.

3. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY PUBLIC OBSERVANCE OF THIS EVENT IN THE GDR BY DISSIDENT OR OTHER ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, MANY NON-OFFICIAL EAST GERMANS WITH WHOM WE ARE ACQUAINTED ARE KEENLY SENSITIVE TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS DATE AND HAVE EXPRESSED BOTH THEIR DISMAY AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CRUSHING OF THE PRAGUE SPRING AND THEIR SHAME THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS SEEN AN INVASION BY GERMAN TROOPS TWICE IN ONE LIFETIME. BOLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** INVASIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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